Brainerd Hall La Fayette Co.

To the Society of Inquiry &c.
Princeton Theo. Sem.

April 17. 1856

Dear Brethren;

Your communication was read at our last meeting Thursday evening 10th. With great pleasure we listened to the cheering news of young men leaving the ways of willful sin & consecrating their talents to that God from whom they received them. We rejoice that so many comparatively, are seriously & prayerfully deciding their personal obligations to carry the Gospel to the remote regions of heathenism & especially do we joy that two from who were once members of our loved Society, will go forth, by the will of God, to the benighted men from the degrading worship of idols & from the cruel exactions of priest - to instruct them in useful knowledge, to imbue them with the life-giving principles of Christianity & thus restore them to something of man's pristine purity. This is a great & good & glorious work, fraught with much labor & trial, yet full of encouragement to all who can trust

the promise of Him who says "Go preach my Gospel to every creature. & lo I am with you always even to the end of the world." Our earnest prayers will go up to Heaven for your safety & success, Brothers, & our longing hearts will follow you in your distant home & anxiously await an account of your field & labors. We trust you will be able to converse with us frequently & thus bind our hearts more firmly to the cause of Foreign Missions.

The Brainerd Evangelical Society has now a membership of more than forty, thirty-three of whom we hope will enter the ministry. Society meets on the second Thursday evening of each month, when committees on For. M. D. M. Bible & Tract Societies report, & an essay is read touching the cause of Mission. Most of the members attend regularly & manifest a good degree of interest in the work of reforming sanctifying & saving men. But we trust that in answer to your prayers & our own God will enable us to pray much more earnestly & labor much more faithfully for the salvation of those around us & for those broad-cast over the whole earth.

Few non-professors are present usually at our Thursday evening prayer-meeting. But when the bell calls us together sports are suspended, & quiet reigns throughout the building. Reading of the Word, prayer & praise constitute the regular exercises. Fervent prayers are offered for converting & sanctifying grace among the members of this Institution & for the promotion & ultimate ~~success~~ triumph of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

The Sabbath day is respected by all the students. An absence from Divine Service rarely occurs. Some attend the First, some the Second Presbyterian, & others the Dutch Reformed Church in the morning, & all the Chapel in the afternoon. Many go to church again in the evening. It is remarked by those in authority that attention & deportment in Chapel is very commendable.

A high moral sentiment pervades the institution. I have seldom heard profane language or witnessed deportment unbecoming moral men. Yet, Brethren, we are destitute of the saving element of religion. We are apparently without the Holy Spirit.

In God's merciful visitations for many years past, He has passed by this College. Prayers have been & are still offered for her by his servants with no visible tokens of acceptance, & we are constrained to cry out "Has God forgotten to be gracious & are his mercies clean gone forever." Brethren, continue to pray for us, that we too may have a gracious revival of undefiled religion, & a special refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

In the good work of Missions & the salvation of our companions

Yours in behalf of Society

Whitfield H. Budd